

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today marks a very important event—the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps. On September 22, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act (Public Law 87–293). To date, more than 240,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 142 countries around the world. Prior to the global COVID–19 pandemic, there were nearly 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 61 countries. Today, Peace Corps volunteers stand ready to return to their crucial work once it is safe and prudent to do so.

Like successive generations of young Americans, my wife Patti and I answered President Kennedy's call and served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia from 1966 to 1968. As co-chair of the Congressional Peace Corps Caucus, I am proud to continue working in support of the Peace Corps' mission, its volunteers, and the indelible impact their service has on the lives of so many around the world.

And so today we commemorate 60 years of Peace Corps. We celebrate over 240,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have served around the world, and we celebrate those who have worked to fulfill the three goals both during and after their volunteer service: 1) To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; 2) To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and 3) To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

As Peace Corps volunteers have returned to America, they have continued to serve over their lifetimes. They serve as volunteers at twice the rate of other Americans. They are in our nation's schools as educators. They are in community programs as leaders and mentors across the country. And a few are even found in the United States Congress.

Today, there are global leaders of many countries who have been taught by Peace Corps volunteers in their high schools, in their grammar schools, or in their universities. They have a very special understanding of America because of the Peace Corps. They know Americans. They know that Americans have a big heart, and they have a desire to see progress, economic and social progress, in every country of this world.

The benefits of the Peace Corps at home and abroad are undeniable. Congress last reauthorized the Peace Corps in 1999 (Public Law 106–30), which expired at the end of fiscal year 2003. Now more than ever, Congress must support the Peace Corps' mission and realize President Kennedy's vision of generations of young Americans, ready to serve their nation and make the world a better place.

The bipartisan "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021" (H.R. 1456), which I introduced earlier this year on National Peace Corps Day (March 1), would do just that by providing additional federal resources to better support current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers. This critical legislation will

help the agency and volunteers impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic.

H.R. 1456 builds upon the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–256) and the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–57). The bill guarantees additional health insurance coverage for returned volunteers immediately following their service and requires the Peace Corps to better facilitate long-term public and private health insurance coverage options for returned volunteers. The bill also increases the federal workers' compensation rate for all Peace Corps volunteers injured or disabled during their service and strengthens protections of volunteers against reprisals or retaliations for reporting wrongdoing or malfeasance.

President Kennedy understood in 1961 that the Peace Corps would "permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development." I can think of no better way to honor the 60 years of Peace Corps service than for this Congress to pass the bipartisan "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021" (H.R. 1456) to advance that vision into the 21st century.

To all the current and returned Peace Corps volunteers, I thank them for their commitment to serving others on this, the 60th anniversary. Our work continues.

WEST 38

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize West 38 of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Reinvestment Award.

The award is given to a Wheat Ridge business that has reinvested significant resources into our community. West 38 is a new apartment complex in the heart of Wheat Ridge that provides market-rate housing to our community. With an impressive 165 units, many residents of Wheat Ridge will be able to call West 38 home for years to come. They also have a wide array of amenities for their tenants. Their beautiful development is a welcome addition to the housing market and our community.

Congratulations to West 38 for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving these awards.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Act and the dedicated heroes who work tirelessly to bring a positive change in communities across the world.

President Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act into law in 1961 and presented the opportunity for American citizens to be innovators

and trailblazers in communities abroad. In the last 60 years, over 240,000 American citizens have humbly worked across the globe with local leaders to meet the needs of the host country's communities.

It makes me proud to know that for more than a decade, California has led the nation in recruiting Peace Corps Volunteers. Since 1961, 31,752 Californians have decided to share their heart, creativity, and ingenuity in over 140 countries. Our nation is thankful for the Peace Corps volunteers who go to their host country to bring a greater understanding of American values. And we can't forget the lessons that volunteers learn during their time abroad, and how their service helps them become more compassionate leaders back home. Peace Corps volunteers don't only serve as ambassadors for the global community but also as role models for a younger generation in the U.S. I hope their passion to serve others continues to transform and inspire our communities.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic temporarily suspending all operations in 2020 and evacuating all 7,000 volunteers across the world, the Peace Corps stands at the ready to once more promote peace and friendship in every corner of the world.

So, I want to take this moment to say thank you, not just to the men and women from California in the Peace Corps, but also to all those who serve and have served proudly with the Peace Corps.

Today, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Act and the men and women who intrepidly go out into the world to bring change and peace through hard work and American values.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. NAVY CORPSMAN MAXTON "MAX" SOVIAK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton "Max" Soviak of Berlin Heights, Ohio. Max, always faithful, became one of the 13 heroes from the Navy, Army, and Marine Corps who gave their lives on August 26, 2021 at Kabul Airport in service to our country.

Corpsman Soviak was 22 years old, not even old enough to remember the terror attacks of 9/11 that spurred the war in which he would later be deployed.

And yet, at just 18, Max took it upon himself to answer the Nation's call to preserve and protect the blessings of liberty.

Reflecting upon his life, we bear witness to a young man who was beloved by friends and neighbors in his close-knit hometown of Berlin Heights, Ohio.

He excelled in school, was named to the honor roll, and earned a two-year certificate in electrical technology from the EHOVE Career Center.

He thrived in wrestling, football, Boy Scouts, and the school band.

And he was adored beyond measure by his parents and 12 siblings.

Max embodied the best of our Nation, a man of many passions, who was lively, strong,